

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08 AGR-20 COME-00

DRC-01 /224 W

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R 022300Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5398

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

CINCSO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 3777

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NO

SUBJ: RECENT COMMENTS OF GENERAL LOPEZ

1. GENERAL LOPEZ WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATTLEMEN ON SEPTEMBER 29. DURING THE MEETING HE WAS QUERIED ABOUT THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

(A) AGRARIAN REFORM

IN REGARD TO DECREE 8, HE STATED THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION LAND GIVEN TO CAMPESINOS FOR THE TWO YEARS STIPULATED IN THE DECREE WOULD BE RETURNED TO THE OWNERS AT THE END OF THAT TIME. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS NEITHER SOCIALIST NOR COMMUNIST AND RESPECTS THE RIGHTS OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE .HOWEVER, HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT REFORMS MUST BE INSTITUTED TO MEET THE SOCIAL CHANGES TAKING PLACE.

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(B) RELATIONS WITH USSR

HE COMMENTED THAT VISIT OF USSR AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED TO COSTA RICA TOOK PLACE AS RESULT OF PRIVATE INVITATION EXTENDED BY MINED NAPOLEON ALCERRO. HE REMARKED THAT VISIT WOULD NOT CONVERT HONDURANS INTO COMMUNISTS. HE STATED THAT HONDURAS WOULD ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY WHEN IT SEEMS ADVISABLE BUT THAT THE INITIATION OF RELATIONS WITH THE USSR HAD NOT YET BEEN CONSIDERED.

(C) RELATIONS WITH EL SALVADOR

HE OBSERVED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO ARMAMENT RACE IN CENTRAL AMERICA BECAUSE THE PEOPLES ARE POOR AND THE RESOURCES ARE NEEDED TO ALLEVIATE SOCIAL PROBLEMS. HE COMMENTED THAT THE TALKS WITH EL SALVADOR ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY AND THAT THEY MAY LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT.

2. IT IS CLEAR THAT LOPEZ WAS ATTEMPTING TO QUIET FEARS OF THE LANDOWNERS AND CATTLEMEN THAT HIS GOVERNMENT THREATENS THEIR INTERESTS. HIS ACCEPTANCE OF THE POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION IS ALSO A SYMBOLIC MOVE SHOWING THAT HE IS IN FAVOR OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. THERE SEEMS LITTLE REASON TO DOUBT THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO HIS BEST TO KEEP THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM BECOMING OVERLY DISTURBED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICIES.

DAVIS

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